Statement

The Circle-wise expansion/modernisation programme of the Telephones Exchanges proposed in the Northern States during 1992—97.

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Capacity		
		Net Commissioning	Replacement Automatisaton	Telephone Connection
1.	Himachal Pradesh	71110	25410	56400
2.	Haryana	290612	51884	230600
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	53214	8910	42300
4.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	499997	92675	396700
5.	Rajasthan	417947	103561	331600
6.	Uttar Pradesh	530707	134609	421000
7.	Delhi M.T.N.L.	1141800	31300	970000

All manual exchanges, life expired telecom. equipment and old strowger type MAX. III and Line Finder type MAX. II exchanges are to be replaced during 8th Five Year Plan as part of the modernisation programme.

Tenders for the purchase of telephone Exchanges

54. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications has decided to purchase telephone exchanges and tenders have been called for the same;

(b) whether validation of prototype exchange offered by various companies has been unduly delayed;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government to finalise the selection of technology and purchase thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay.

(c) The validation is done as and when the various tests are offered by the manufacturers. There has been delays in offering of tests by the manufacturers.

(d) The selection of technology and purchase thereof is related to completion of validation.

Release of special stamps

55. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for bringing out/release of special stamps during the current year;

(b) whether if so, what are the details thereof, particularly; for proposals from Maharashtra and by when the decision is likely to be taken;

(c) whether the number of Non-official Postal Committees under the Postal Department their composition and functioning and how many of them are to be reconstituted during the current year; and

(d) what are the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Commemorative/special stamps approved for 1993 including those relating to Maharashtra are given in the Statement attached (1) along with further information.

Statement

Programme for issue of commemorative/Special postage stamps so far approved for the year 1993.

S. No.	Theme/Subject of Stamp
1.	William Carey
2.	Fakir Mohan Senapati
3.	C.S.I.R.
4.	Golden Jubilee of 9 Para Field Regiment
5.	No. 1 Squadron, IAF
6.	Rahul Sankrityayan
7.	Meerut College, Meerut
8.	Abdul Ghaffar Khan
9.	Mountain Locomotives
10.	Satyajit Ray
11.	P.C. Mahalanobis
12.	I.N.A. Golden Jubilee
13.	Flowerin Trees
14.	Golden Jubilee of College of Military Engineering.
15.	Greetings
16.	Diwaram Venkataswamy Nadu
17.	Children's Day
18.	Dr. D.N. Kotnis
19.	Rani Rashmani
20.	Maritime Heritage
*21.	Greater Bombay Municipal Corporation Building.
*22.	Centenary of Dadabhai Naorojis Election to British House of Commons.
*23.	Dina Nath Mageshkar.

*These relate to Maharashtra.

There is no Non-official Postal Committee under the Department of Posts.

However, the following Committees have both Official and Non Official Members:

1. Philatelic Advisory Committee.
2. Postal Advisory Committee
3. Hindi Salehakar Samiti

The Philatelic Advisory Committee is headed by the Minister of State for Communications as Chairman and it includes Sr. Officers from Department of Posts and Ministry of Finance Non-Official Members of the Committee includes Members of Parliament, representatives of prominant persons and artists, philatelists and stamp dealers. The Philatelic Advisory Committee advises the Government regarding matters relating to issue of commemorative/special postage stamps. The Committee was last constituted vide notifiation dated 22.4.92 in April 1992 for the years 1992 and 1993. The tanure of the Non-Official Members of this Committee is for a period of two years from the date of notification.

There are 25 Postal Advisory Committees. This Committee is headed by Head of Postal Circle as Chairman and has representatives of State Governments, State Legislatures, Rural interests, Press, Trade & Commerce and Small Scale Industry.

Members of Parliament and representatives of Special interests nominated by the Minister of Communications. The tenure of the Committee is two years. Out of the 25 Postal Advisory Committees, 5 have been reconstituted and the case for reconstituting 20 is in process.

Hindi Salahakar Samiti is headed by the Minister of Communications and includes Senior Officers of the Department. Non-Official Members of the Committee includes Members of Parliament, representatives of All India Hindi Institutions, Kendriya Sachivalaya, Hindi Parishad and Department of Official Languages. The Committee has a tenure of three years. The reconstitutions of the Committee is in process.

Telecom and Postal Services in Thane District

56. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecommunication and postal services in Thene District is extremely poor and inefficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken in the recent past to make significant improvement in the same and the results thereof; and

(d) the details of measures proposed to be taken particularly in rural and tribal areas of the district during the 8th Five Year Plan to improve and modernise the telecommunication and postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The telecommunication and postal services in Thane District is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As regards telecom services, 5 electronic exchanges have been installed and 17 small exchanges have been replaced by electronic exchanges with latest technology (FETEX-150) in Thane District. In Thane city, RLUs from electronic exchanges have been opened. The long distance transmission media has been provided on high reliable radio systems.

To further improve the telecommunication services in rural and tribal